

FIG. 1

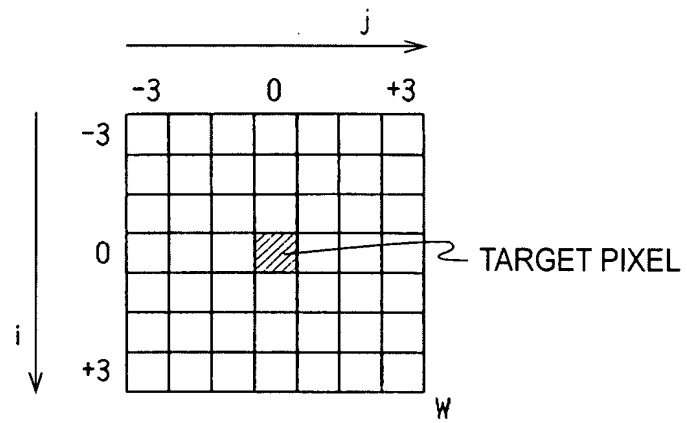


FIG. 2

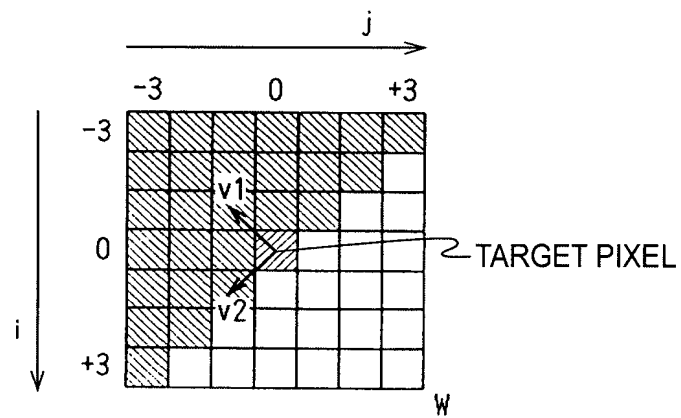


FIG. 3

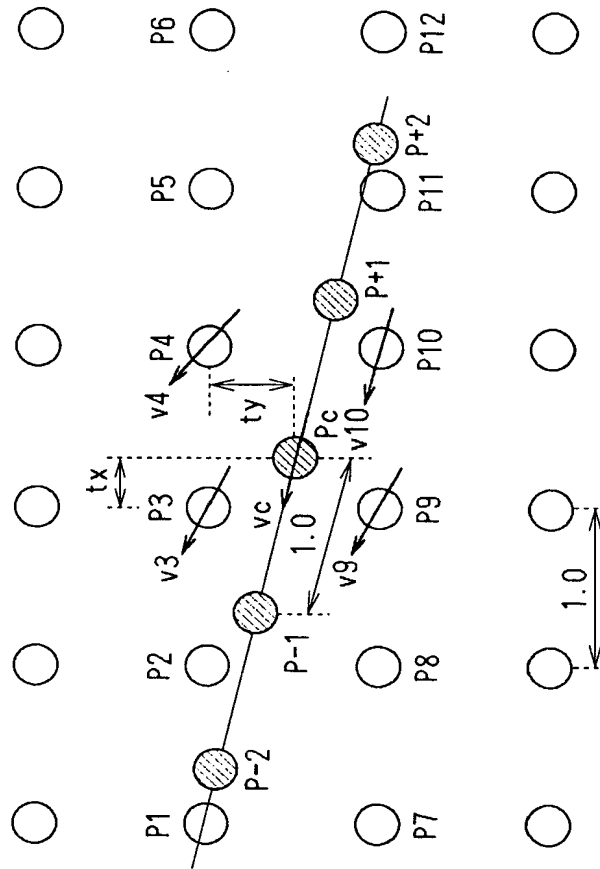


FIG. 4

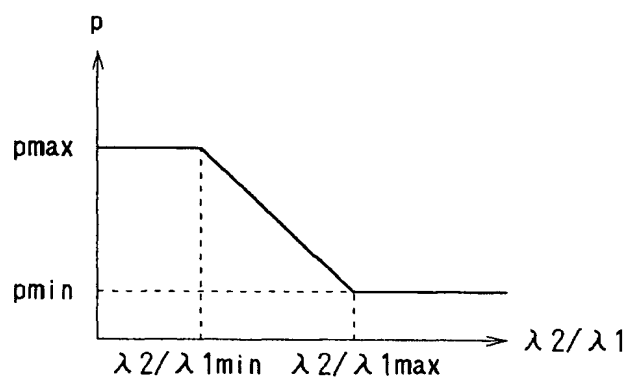


FIG. 5

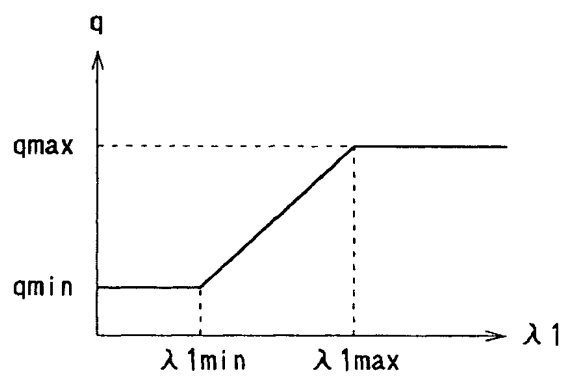


FIG. 6

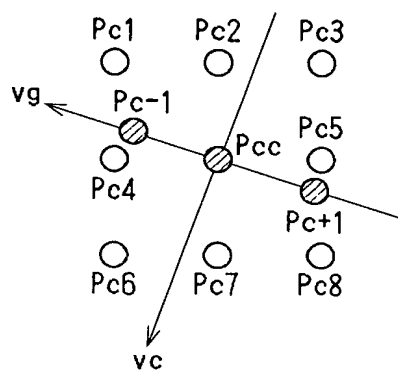


FIG. 7

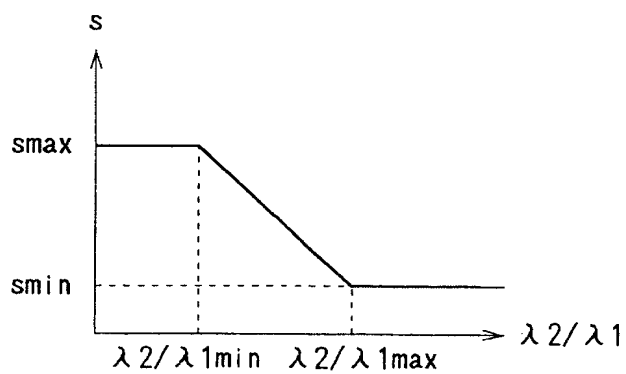


FIG. 8

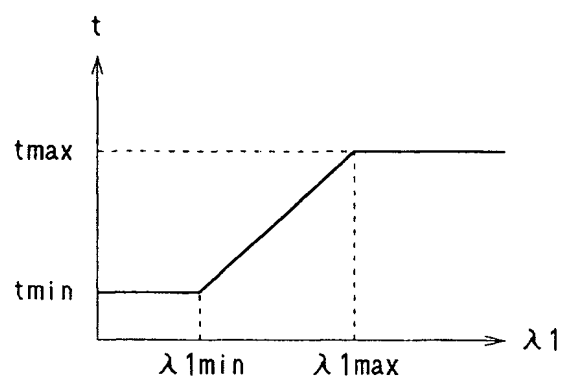


FIG. 9

## DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

1 ... IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, 2 ... EDGE DETECTION UNIT, 3 ... GRADIENT MATRIX GENERATION UNIT, 4 ... EIGENVALUE AND EIGENVECTOR DETECTION UNIT, 5 ... EDGE DIRECTION PROCESSING UNIT, 6 ... EDGE DIRECTION PROCESSING RANGE DETERMINATION UNIT, 7 ... EDGE GRADIENT DIRECTION PROCESSING UNIT, 8 ... INTERPOLATION PROCESSING UNIT, 9 ... BLEND RATIO DETERMINATION UNIT, 10 ... BLEND PROCESSING UNIT